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**United States Patent** [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,920,239****Hardy et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 6, 1999**[54] **MULTIPLE DWELLING UNIT TAP OFF  
INCLUDING AN EQUALIZER CIRCUIT**

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Gardner; Hubert J. Barnhardt III[73] **Assignee:** Scientific-Atlanta, Inc., Norcross, Ga.[57] **ABSTRACT**[21] **Appl. No.:** 08/946,002

The present invention provides a tap off unit for use in a multiple dwelling unit. The tap off unit includes a housing having an input terminal and an output terminal for interposing the tap off unit in a cable signal line, a plurality of taps disposed within the housing, with each tap having a faceplate including associated signal coupling circuitry, and a circuitry board disposed within the housing. The circuitry board distributes a signal from the cable signal line to each of the plurality of taps within the housing and the plurality of taps are connected in parallel such that one of the plurality of taps may be removed without disruption of the signal to the remaining taps.

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333/131, 136, 100[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**4,578,702 3/1986 Campbell, III ..... 333/136 X  
5,058,198 10/1991 Rocci et al. .... 333/136 X**7 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet**